

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to you today as a current satellite TV subscriber who would like to add my voice of support to the pending merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV .. The combination of these two satellite providers will provide numerous benefits to consumers like me, including more choices in channels, programming, broadband and new television technologies.

By merging, the combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable television and can offer more programming choices and, most importantly, all local TV channels in every market in the U.S. By providing local TV channels everywhere, this merger will make satellite television a strong alternative to cable in our community. Throughout the country, people will now be able to turn to satellite TV to access their local news, weather and community information, in addition to a comprehensive package of national video programming. But just as exciting, the merger will bring the availability of affordable high-speed Internet service by satellite to over 40 million Americans who don't have high-speed Internet access. These tremendous benefits to consumers won't happen without the merger. Satellite-delivered Internet service will bring an affordable and competitive alternative to cable modems and DSL to consumers in big cities, small towns and rural areas alike. This will give me a competitive choice for Internet access and will be especially advantageous to rural communities where cable modems and DSL are not likely to be available anytime in the near future.

I have attempted for the 12 years I have lived at this residence to obtain cable TV from my local provider (Time Warner). Each inquiry resulted in the same response. I live 748 feet from the main line and to receive this product I must be willing to fund the installation of the cable to my home. This cost to me would be over \$1000.00. Then I would be charged as if I lived on the main line. My neighbors could also connect to the line I purchased at no charge to them. My thoughts are that a monthly bill to the cable company is suppose to cover this expense. But no, the cable company will allow the consumer to fund their profits and then receive more profit in the form of subscription to the service.

My local phone company (Sprint) also is not providing high speed internet service to my area. They say that at this time it is not cost effective. I wonder why. I already have the phone line.

My reason for mentioning this is that I live in the middle of Florida. 5 miles south of Ocala and 76 miles north of Orlando. If this is happening to me what about those who truly live in rural America such as Mississippi, Alabama, and North Dakota.

In the interest of improving our access to competitive television and Internet service, I urge you to lend your support to this merger.

Sincerely,

Joseph Taylor
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Summerfield, FL 34491